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09/640,839	08/16/2000	Mark Gregory McClanahan	RPS9-2000-0052US1	4229

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EXAMINER

LANIER, BENJAMIN E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2132

DATE MAILED: 07/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/640,839

Applicant(s)

MCCLANAHAN, MARK GREGORY

Examiner

Benjamin E Lanier

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 June 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-81 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-81 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 August 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed 02 June 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's argument that He does not disclose an application framework is not persuasive because application framework is just software and He discloses that the SSO system is implemented using software (Col. 7, lines 4-9).

2. Applicant's argument that He does not disclose an application framework that logs a user with a first level of access in the underlying operating system is not persuasive because the SSO allowing the user to log-on to the system meets the limitations of generating an application framework sign-on screen, wherein said application framework logs on a user, and entering a logon input on said generated application framework sign-on screen, which further meets the limitation of said user logged onto said underlying operating system and an application environment with said first level of access thereby bypassing said initial sign-on screen of said underlying operating system with said single sign-on. The user accessing network elements that the user is authorized to access and the database for user authorization and user privilege control (Fig. 2).

3. Applicant's argument that He does not disclose a sign-on screen is not persuasive because He discloses a single sign-on that allows a user to log-on by providing user information (Col. 2, lines 25-32) through a sign-on screen (Figure 1), which further meets the limitation of entering a logon input on said generated application framework sign-on screen.

4. Applicant's argument that He does not disclose comparing said logon input with an application framework security database to determine level of access is not persuasive because

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He discloses that the user identifier and password are checked against the information in the user profile of the central security database at the security server (Col. 5, lines 7-11) to determine the set of NEs that the user is authorized to access. This access list is based on the privilege of the user (Col. 5, lines 15-18). The privilege of the user meets the limitation of the level of access.

5. Applicant's argument that He does not disclose selecting an indication of said first level of access is not persuasive because the selection of the authorized NEs for the specific users are an indication of the user level of access.

6. Applicant's argument that He does not disclose selecting an indication of a second level of access is not persuasive because He discloses that if a user log-on gives the user "super user" access rights then the user is provided with more privileges to perform administrative functions in a network element (Col. 8, lines 51-54).

7. Applicant's argument that He does not disclose if said logon input is not entitled to a second level of access according to said application framework security database, then said user is logged onto an application environment and said underlying operating system as said first level of access is not persuasive because He discloses that the user privilege level determines the access rights that the user has and what network elements the user can access (Col. 5, lines 41-45). Unless the user is granted additional access rights (Col. 5, lines 45-48 & Col. 8, lines 40-65), the user can only access the network elements designated to that user as being authorized for their use, and attempted accesses of unauthorized network elements will be rejected and logged (Col. 5, lines 49-58), which further meets the limitation of if said logon input is not entitled to a second level of access according to said application framework security database, then an

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indication of said second level of access will not be generated to said user, wherein said user is restricted to said first level of access.

8. Applicant's argument that He does not disclose the user does not disclose executing a switch user program to switch said user to said second level of access is not persuasive because He discloses that if a user log-on gives the user "super user" access rights then the user is provided with more privileges to perform administrative functions in an network element (Col. 8, lines 51-54), which further meets the limitations of if said underlying operating system security database verifies said user with access to said second level of access, then said switch user program switches said user to said second level of access, if said underlying operating system security database does not verify said user with access to said second level of access, then the method further comprises the step of requesting from said user a logon identification, and comparing said logon identification with said underlying operating system security database.

9. Applicant's argument that He does not disclose said application framework security database stores system operator information, wherein said application framework security database defines at least one of the following: users, passwords, groups of users and application specific authorization is not persuasive because He discloses that the central security database at the security server stores profile information for the users (Col. 5, lines 8-10).

10. Applicant's argument that He does not disclose said switch user program switches said user to said second level of access by modifying an underlying operating system's registry is not persuasive because He discloses that the user records, stored in registry (Col. 15, lines 52-53), are modified to give the user more access rights (Col. 5, lines 41-48).

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11. Applicant's argument that He does not disclose if said logon input is entitled to a second level of access according to said application framework security database, then the method further comprises the step of: generating an indication of said second level of access is not persuasive because He discloses that the SSO contains an indication digit for regular users and for super users (Col. 10, line 58 – Col. 11, line 10).

12. Applicant's argument that He does not disclose transferring said logon input to said underlying operating system for verification He discloses that the user attempts to log-on the information entered by the user is checked against the information in the user profile of the central security database at the security server and assures that the user accesses the correct network elements based on the user privilege (Col. 5, lines 8-15).

13. Applicant's argument with respect to the 112 rejections of claims 9, 14, 21, 27, 36, 41, 48, 54, 63, 68, 75, 81 is not persuasive because the scope of the claimed subject matter cannot be determined by one having ordinary skill in the art because the language is indefinite. The claims are requiring "logging off said user with first level of access, wherein said underlying operating system logs on said user with said second level of access", which render the claims vague and indefinite because they appear to require two different users; one with a first level of access and one with a second level of access. The specification and the previous claims from which the above mentioned claims depend claim switching user level of access "to" a different level, where this limitation requires switching "users with" a level of access to a user with another level of access, which renders the claim vague and indefinite because the scope of the claim cannot be determined by the specification or the claims.

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14. Applicant's arguments, with respect to 112 rejections claims 22, 49, 76 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The 112 rejections of claims 22, 49, 76 have been withdrawn.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

15. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

16. Claims 9, 14, 21, 27, 36, 41, 48, 54, 63, 68, 75, 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

17. Claims 9, 14, 21, 27, 36, 41, 48, 54, 63, 68, 75, 81 recite the limitation "logging off said user with first level of access, wherein said underlying operating system logs on said user with said second level of access" which renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear which level of access the user possesses.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

18. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

19. Claims 1-8, 10-13, 15-20, 22, 23, 28-35, 37-40, 42-47, 49, 50, 55-62, 64-67, 69-74 76, 77, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by He, U.S. Patent No. 5,944,824.

Referring to claims 1, 7, 28, 33, 55, 60, He discloses a system for single sign-on to a plurality of

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network elements wherein users are allowed to log-on only once at a user station and a Security Server will automatically log the user on to all the network elements that the user is authorized to access (Col. 2, lines 25-32). The architecture and method for the Single Sign-on system ("SSO") meets the limitation of providing an application framework. The SSO allowing the user to log-on to the system meets the limitations of generating an application framework sign-on screen, wherein said application framework logs on a user, and entering a logon input on said generated application framework sign-on screen. The user accessing network elements that the user is authorized to access and the database for user authorization and user privilege control (Fig. 2) meet the limitation of user log-on with a first level of access in said underlying operating system. When the user attempts to log-on the information entered by the user is checked against the information in the user profile of the central security database at the security server and assures that the user accesses the correct network elements based on the user privilege (Col. 5, lines 8-15), which meets the limitation of comparing said logon input with an application framework security database to determine level of access. The SSO system is incorporated with the security server (Figs. 1 & 2), which meets the limitation of a processor, a memory unit operable for storing a computer program operable for bypassing an initial sign-on screen of an underlying operating system with a single sign capability, an input mechanism, an output mechanism, and a bus system coupling the processor to the memory unit, input mechanism, and output mechanism.

Referring to claims 2, 3, 18, 29, 30, 45, 56, 57, 72, He discloses that the user attempts to log-on the information entered by the user is checked against the information in the user profile of the central security database at the security server and assures that the user accesses the correct network elements based on the user privilege (Col. 5, lines 8-15), which meets the



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limitations of selecting an indication of said first level of access, the user is logged onto said underlying operating system and an application environment with said first level of access thereby bypassing said initial sign-on screen of said underlying operating system with said single sign-on.

Referring to claims 4, 10, 16, 24, 31, 37, 43, 51, 58, 64, 70, 78, He discloses that the user privilege level determines the access rights that the user has and what network elements the user can access (Col. 5, lines 41-45). Unless the user is granted additional access rights (Col. 5, lines 45-48 & Col. 8, lines 40-65), the user can only access the network elements designated to that user as being authorized for their use, and attempted accesses of unauthorized network elements will be rejected and logged (Col. 5, lines 49-58), which meets the limitation of if said logon input is not entitled to a second level of access according to said application framework security database, then said user is logged onto an application environment and said underlying operating system as said first level of access.

Referring to claim 5, 23, 32, 50, 59, 77, He discloses that the user log-on information is a user ID and password (Col. 2, lines 60-61).

Referring to claim 6, 17, 19, 22, 25, 34, 44, 46, 49, 52, 61, 71, 73, 76, 79, He discloses that if a user log-on gives the user "super user" access rights then the user is provided with more privileges to perform administrative functions in a network element (Col. 8, lines 51-54), which meets the limitation of executing a switch user program to switch said user to said second level of access.

Referring to claims 8, 13, 20, 26, 35, 40, 47, 53, 62, 67, 74, 80, He discloses that the user records, stored in registry (Col. 15, lines 52-53), are modified to give the user more access rights

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(Col. 5, lines 41-48), which meets the limitation of a user switching program switches said user to said second level of access by modifying an underlying operating system's registry.

Referring claims 11, 12, 15, 38, 39, 42, 65, 66, 69, He discloses that the SSO contains an indication digit for regular users and for super users (Col. 10, line 58 – Col. 11, line 10), which meets the limitation of if said logon input is entitled to a second level of access according to said application framework security database, then the method further comprises the step of generating an indication of said second level of access, executing a switch user program to switch level of access to said second level of access by selecting said indication of said second level of access.

### *Conclusion*

20. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin E. Lanier whose telephone number is 571-272-3805.

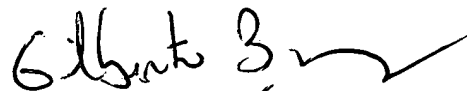
The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30am-5:00pm, F 7:30am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Benjamin E. Lanier



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